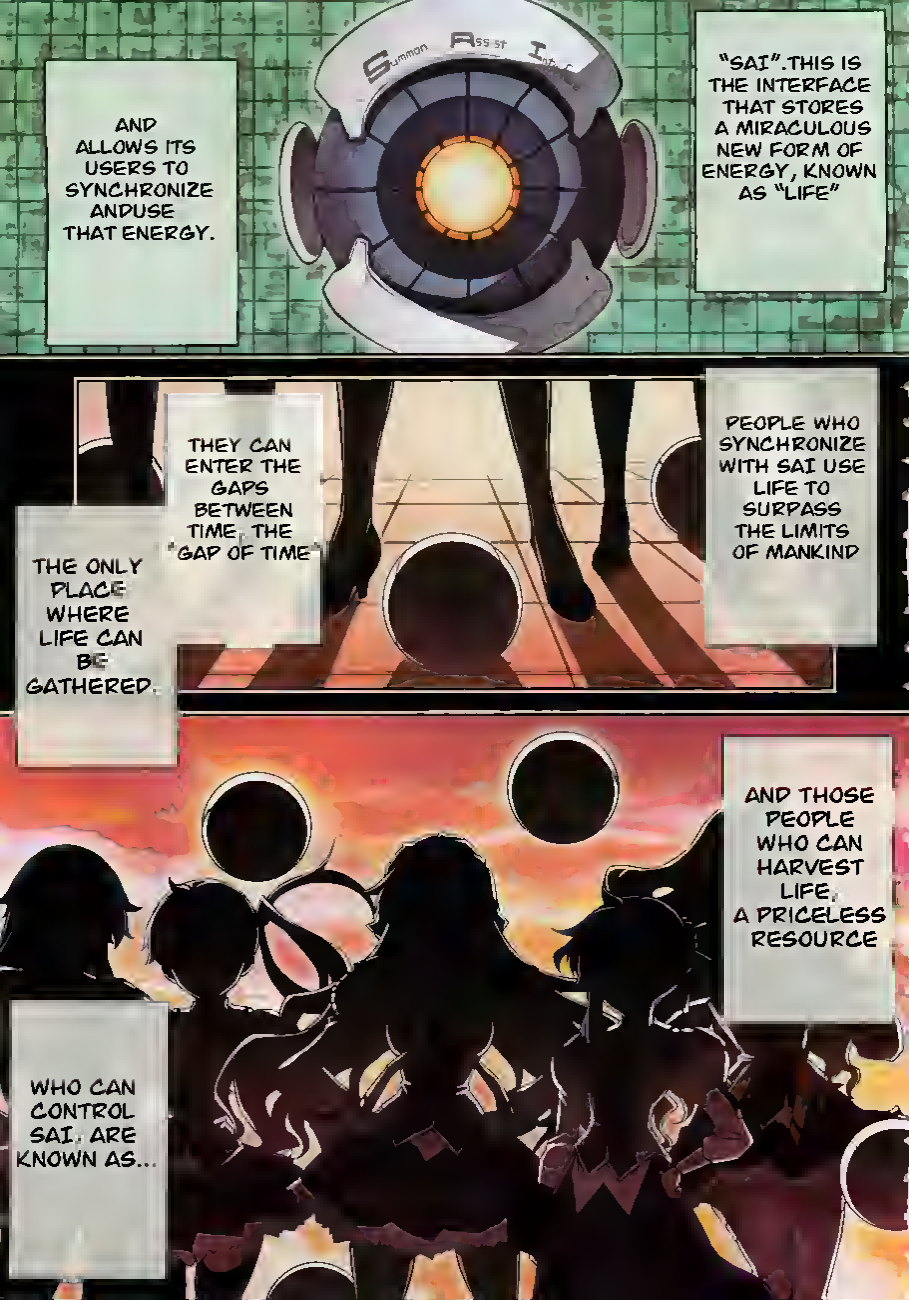
"SAI". THIS IS THE INTERFACE THAT STORES A MIRACULOUS NEW FORM OF ENERGY, KNOWN AS "LIFE"
AND ALLOWS ITS USERS TO SYNCHRONIZE AND USE THAT ENERGY.
PEOPLE WHO SYNCHRONIZE WITH SAI USE LIFE TO SURPASS THE LIMITS OF MANKIND
THEY CAN ENTER THE GAPS BETWEEN TIME, THE "GAP OF TIME"
THE ONLY PLACE WHERE LIFE CAN BE GATHERED.
AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAN HARVEST LIFE, A PRICELESS RESOURCE
WHO CAN CONTROL SAI, ARE KNOWN AS...

第0話 プロローグ

THE TWO ARTEMISES

待望の新連載!!

『バース-the Emanate Text-』の林達永×李秀顯が贈る新機軸ラスコメ&バトルアクション始動!!

サイ:デカー

SUMMON ASSIST INTERFACE

―二人のアルテミス―

原作:林達永(イムダリョン)
作画:李秀顯(イスヒョン)

THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN USE SAI, THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOW HUMANS TO UTILIZE LIFE.
WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE SAI TAKERS?
THIS ALLOWS THE TAKER TO GAIN SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OR SIMILAR SPECIAL ABILITIES. HOWEVER, THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CHANGE IS THAT...
WHICH TRANSFORMS LIFE INTO A FORM THAT THE TAKER CAN ABSORB AND CONTROL
YNCHRO
SAI
THE CHOSEN FEW UTILIZE POWERFUL COMPUTATIONAL ABILITIES TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH SAI,
SAI TAKER
THERE, THEY ACT AS SUPERHEROES, FIGHTING THE NATIVE MONSTERS AND SECURING LIFE.
THEY CAN ENTER THE "GAP OF TIME," WHICH NORMAL HUMANS CAN'T EVEN OBSERVE.

I'M—I'M SORRY
SHI— DAMMIT.
NANASE-KUN, DOES MY CLASS BORE YOU?
EVEN A CHILD KNOWS THAT MUCH...
LIFE CAN CURE ALL KINDS OF DISEASES, EXTEND ONE'S LIFESPAN, AND IS A VALUABLE ENERGY OVERALL.
YAWN
MY NAME IS NANASE KYOUYA.
THIS IS BAD, THIS IS BAD!
BUT ONLY SAI TAKERS CAN GATHER THE RESOURCE FROM THE GAP OF TIME
I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE 15-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
WHO LOOKS UP TO THE SAI TAKERS.
HEY, WANNA PLAY A GAME?
YEAH!
ガラッ
BUT WE CAN ONLY EXPERIENCE THEIR LIFE THROUGH GAMES
SO, DID YOU SEE THE NEWS?
AH, YOU MEAN THE BUS CRASH WHERE HE SAVED ALL THOSE PEOPLE'S LIVES?
AFTER ALL, NOT EVERYONE CAN BECOME A SAI TAKER
05

HE JUST PICKED EVERYONE OFF AND JUMPED SO FAR THAT IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS FLYING~!
ガラッ
~! YEAH! THEY WERE SO COOL! SAI ARE THE GREATEST!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN
SINCE LIFE AND SAI TAKERS HAVE BECOME NORMAL, EVEN IN JAPAN?
TAKE
THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST TALENTED INDIVIDUALS— THEY'RE THE WORLD'S HEROES.
TAKER SHOW
AND OF COURSE, THERE'S A PERFECTLY GOOD REASON FOR THAT.

ONLY SAI TAKERS
CAN OBTAIN THE MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE IN THE WORLD, LIFE.
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I DREAM OF BECOMING A SAI TAKER.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF COMPATIBILITY WITH SAI.
AND BESIDES, AS LONG AS I'M AT HOME, I CAN'T JUST PINE AFTER SAI AS MUCH AS I WANT.
I'M HOME!
WOW! WELCOME HOME, KYOU-CHAN!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF APPREC-IATION

TOWARDS THIS WOMAN
I'M HOME, KYOUKA-NEE-SAN!
YOU'LL HELP ME SHAMPOO MY HAIR LIKE ALWAYS, RIGHT~?
NICE TIMING! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE A BATH!
3065
AN ORIGINAL TAKER.
SHE IS SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW EXISTS
BUT WE'RE BOTH FINE WITH IT, SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
SHE TOOK ME IN AFTER MY PARENTS DIED. I OWE HER MY LIFE.
IGARASHI KYOUKA.
ONEE-CHAN! YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR BATHS BY YOURSELF!

ORIGINAL TAKERS
ARE THE ORIGIN OF THE SAI TAKERS, WHO CAN ONLY EXIST IN THE WORLD'S SHADOWS.
THEY FORM A CONTRACT WITH THE MYSTERIOUS EQUIPMENT KNOWN AS MAGICAL VESSELS, AND ARE REBORN
AS BEINGS WHO, WITHOUT THE AID OF SAI, CAN ABSORB LIFE DIRECTLY INTO THEIR BODIES. AS LONG AS THEY DON'T RUN OUT, THEY WILL NEVER DIE.
1063500
AFTER MANKIND SUCCEEDED IN CREATING SAI TAKERS, THE ORIGINALS WERE FORBIDDEN TO REVEAL THEMSELVES TO THE WORLD, HEAVILY REGULATED AND CONTROLLED, AND HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM.
KYOU-CHAN'S ALREADY 15 YEARS OLD!
YOU JEALOUS?
OF COURSE, FORMING A CONTRACT WITH THE MAGICAL VESSEL, JUST AS THE WORD SUGGESTS, MEANS ONE MUST CONSIGN HIMSELF TO DARKNESS.
AND HE NEVER TRIES TO SNEAK A PEEK AT YOU. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE UNATTRACTIVE?

THEY ARE FORCED TO BE THE SCAPEGOATS FOR THE SAI TAKERS THEY CREATED WITH THEIR OWN HANDS.
KYOU-CHAN! I'LL BE GETTING IN FIRST, OK?
CAN'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING?!
KNOWING THAT, I CAN'T JUST GO AROUND PRAISING THEM 24/7.
IF YOU'RE THAT JEALOUS, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
ARE YOU IN THE BATH, NEE-SAN?
I AM, I AM!
BUT STILL... IF I HAD ONE OF THOSE MAGICAL VESSELS...
MAYBE I COULD BECOME A TAKER, TOO?

HEYYA!
PLEASE TREAT ME NICE—AND GEN—TLE~!

TO BE HONEST, IT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME WHETHER OR NOT SHE WAS A TAKER.
YOU WANT YOUR NORMAL SHAMPOO?
YEAH
ALL RIGHT, SO JUST TURN YOUR BACK ALREADY!
AHWWW!
WHAT, ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?

AS A PERSON.
I JUST WANT TO THANK HER
OH, YEAH, KYOU-CHAN,
AT WORK, TAKABAYASHI AND I MANAGED TO CREATE A NEW TYPE OF SAI.
!
I MANAGED TO GET PERMISSION FROM THE SUPERVISOR FOR YOU TO TAKE A LOOK...
!
I—I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD GO ALL THE WAY OUT THERE TO SEE IT...
...
HUH? REALLY?!
WANNA COME SEE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT AWAY. I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH APTITUDE WITH SAI, BUT...
THE NEW TYPE WORKS WITH MORE PEOPLE, SO MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE.
RE— REALLY? WELL THEN, MAYBE I SHOULD GO...
A-A NEW TYPE OF SAI?! OF COURSE I WANT TO GO SEE IT!!!
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I, I'M SORRY!
UHH! OWW!
NOT SO HARD, KYOU-CHAN!

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UH-UMM, KYOUKA-SAN...
?
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN? WE'VE TAKEN BATHS TOGETHER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, RIGHT?
AND ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
COULD YOU JUST... SINK DOWN A LITTLE MORE?
YOUR- YOUR BREASTS ... ERR...
HUH?
...?!

ぼにん
WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT IT?
YOU WANT TO LOOK, DON'T YOU? SO LOOK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
WE'RE FAMILY, AFTER ALL. THERE'S NO REASON TO BE EMBARRASSED.
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YU... YUUMA-NEE-SAN?!
STOP IT RIGHT THERE! KYOUYA, GET OUT!
BUT...BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED WASHING HER HAIR!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! JUST GET OUT!!!
SHUT UP! JUST GET OUT! GET OUT!
TCH
WHAT? ARE YOU REALLY THAT JEALOUS?
WOW... I REALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD...

MAYBE I SHOULD JOIN YOU TOO, SIS! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!!
WE NEED TO BE PHYSICALLY CLOSE, TOO! YES! WE'RE SO CLOSE! THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE!
KYAH!! IT'S GETTING IN MY EYES! STOP! OWW!
17
KYOU-CHAN ISN'T A LITTLE KID ANYMORE!
SO STOP ASKING HIM TO HELP YOU TAKE A BATH!!!
IF I EVER CATCH YOU DOING THIS AGAIN,
…
はい…
I WON'T LET YOU EAT, EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!

LIFE, INC. RESEARCH ANNEX
TO BE HONEST, WHAT I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN IS THE CONTRACTING ALGORITHM...
THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THE MAGICAL VESSELS, THE MORE INTRIGUING THEY BECOME.
WOW... I CAN'T EVEN TELL THEM APART.
I CAN BARELY TELL IT'S A COPY.
AC - 0017
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SHAPE WE CARE ABOUT ITS CAPABILITIES AND SIDE EFFECTS.
WE MANAGED TO REPRODUCE THE ARRANGEMENT THAT ALLOWS ONE TO USE LIFE WITH SAI,
BUT HONESTLY, WHAT OUR LITTLE TRICK CAN ACCOMPLISH IS NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING.
AH, BUT THIS MYSTERIOUS GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION...
DOESN'T IT JUST MAKE YOU FEEL SO EXCITED?!
くしっくしっ
...

WELL, THEY'D CERTAINLY BE USEFUL IN EXTERMINATING THE TAURUS.
OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO MATCH THE POWER USED BY THE ORIGINAL TAKERS.
MAN, OUR COMPANY REALLY DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO MASS PRODUCE THE MAGICAL VESSELS?
WE'VE ALREADY MADE SAI, AFTER ALL.
SAI WILL NEVER BE NOTHING MORE THAN A MINOR VERSION OF THE MAGICAL VESSELS.
I GET IT... IF THIS MASS-PRODUCED MAGICAL VESSEL BECOMES SUCCESSFUL,
THEN THERE'D BE A LOT OF TAKERS SUPPORTING JUSTICE WHO ALIGN WITH THE GOVERNMENT.
THOSE DAMN TERRORIST JERKS... THEY USE THE POWERS FROM TAKERS FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL GAIN.
AC - 001
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU'D GET TO WORK IN THE DAYLIGHT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, RIGHT, KYOUKA?

WOW! LIFE INC'S RESEARCH FACILITIES ARE AS IMPRESSIVE AS I THOUGHT THEY'D BE-
WELL OF COURSE! THEY'RE THE FIRST COMPANY IN THE WORLD TO START MAKING PRACTICAL USE OF LIFE
KYOUKA-NEE-SAN MUST BE AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO WORK HERE!
I CAN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO SEE A NEW TYPE OF SAI!
REALLY?
BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD JOIN ME, YUUMA-NEE-SAN
IT'D BE NICE, IF I COULD USE IT...
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS ABOUT SAI TAKERS, RIGHT?

I—I KNOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO, KYOU-CHAN!
IT'S FINE! I'VE ALREADY COME TO TERMS WITH IT.
AH!
!
DON'T GIVE UP SO SOON!
IT JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE.
BUT YOU CAN USE IT, YUUMA-NEE-SAN! YOU'RE SO COOL!
SH—SHUT UP! I TOLD YOU NOT TO GIVE UP SO EASILY!
WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE NEW TYPE, RIGHT?
ガラガラ

WE CAME HERE JUST TO SEE THE SAI, SO WHY ALL OF THESE APTITUDE TESTS?
KYOUKA-NEE-SAN DOESN'T WAIT AROUND, DOES SHE?
HIS COMPATIBILITY RATING ISN'T THAT LOW... SO WHY CAN'T HE USE SAI?
AT ANY RATE, I JUST WANT TO GIVE THE BOY SOME CONFIDENCE.
I DON'T KNOW... HE'S CERTAINLY INTERESTED IN THEM...
HMMM... THIS IS ALL JUST A MATTER OF TALENT.
OK, SINCE IT'S YOUR LITTLE BROTHER, KYOUKA-CHAN, WE'LL DO WHATEVER WE CAN THE NEW TYPE DOESN'T REQUIRE AS MUCH CALCULATION AS BEFORE, AFTER ALL.
BUT DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP TOO MUCH.
...

WHY DOES SHE TAKE KYOUKA OFF BY HERSELF AND LEAVE ME HERE TO EAT CAKE BY MYSELF?!
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SHE ALWAYS JUST DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS!
ラ!!
MUNCH
BUT IT'S REALLY GOOD
AWW~ WHAT IS IT? DID YOU MAKE KYOU-CHAN DO SOMETHING ELSE?
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I ASKED YOU TO COME.
I'M PRETTY SURE I ONLY INVITED KYOUYA...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY YOU WANTED HIM TO COME HERE
YEAH, YEAH. BUT ISN'T THE CAKE HERE REALLY GOOD?
かあ
23

IT'S FINE I'LL JUST HEAD ON HOME
KYOU-CHAN'LL BE HERE SOON, ALL RIGHT?
RELAX- I'M JUST KIDDING!
AND THEN WE'LL ALL GO SEE THE NEW TYPE OF...!!!!!
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HOW MANY GUARDS DO THEY HAVE SECURING THIS PLACE?
DAMMIT...YOU BASTARDS DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT LIFE INC. DOES, DO YOU...?
HOW FAR WILL YOU GO TO PROTECT YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE SECRETS?

ORIGINAL TAKERS...?
ARE THESE PEOPLE...
TAURUS?!
DID THEY CATCH OUR SCENT OR SOMETHING?!
26
AS EXPECTED, WE'VE FOUND IGARASHI KYOUKA. SHE'S ALONE.
I CAN'T! I CAN T LEAVE YOU ALONE...!!!
LET ME HELP!
LISTEN TO ME!
YUUMA... RUN TO THE FAR EXIT. NOW!
11
COPY THAT.

サイ：テイカー
I'LL MAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT FOR DINNER, OK?!!
GOT IT?!
HAVE SOME FAITH
IN YOUR BIG SISTER.
THAT'S GOOD
JUST KEEP ON RUNNING, YUUMA.

"BELIEVE IN ME"...MAN, I MUST HAVE SOUNDED SO COOL.
BUT CAN I REALLY PULL THIS OFF BY MYSELF?
YOU'RE BY YOURSELF, AND HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED
YOU REALLY WANT TO TAKE ON AN ORIGINAL TAKER?
EVEN IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE FOUR GREAT TAKERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS AS THEIR SECRET PETS,
NO, NOT UNLESS YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE UP YOUR SLEEVE. THIS IS WHY I'M EMPLOYED HERE, AFTER ALL.
THERE'S, WHAT, TEN OF YOU PUNKS?
YOU MUST ADMIT THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
WOW, LOOK WHO'S TALKING SO BIG NOW.

NOW YOU WANT TO MASS-PRODUCE MAGICAL VESSELS? ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
YOU'RE NOT JUST SATISFIED WITH REVEALING LIFE TO THE WORLD OR GIVING NORMAL PEOPLE THE POWERS OF A TAKER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN?!
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU INTEND TO GUIDE DOWN THE WRONG PATH?!
DON'T ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!
ALL YOU RE DOING IS BARGING INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE WITH YOUR SHOES ON AND WORKING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING!!!
はは
WE RE DESTROYING LIFE, INC. FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!
THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME LET'S FIGHT ALREADY!
…!?

AND LET ME SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHY...
THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS US SO LOCKED UP!

WHAT— WHAT IS THAT? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
EVEN IF WE'RE UNDER ATTACK,
THIS PLACE IS PERFECTLY SAFE
WELL, THIS IS JUST THE EMERGENCY ALARM...
AFTER ALL, KYOUKA IS THIS PLACE'S KEEPER

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HEH... HAHHAH... WE'RE TEN OF TAURUS'S MOST ELITE TROOPS, AND...
32
WHAT ARE YOU, IGARASHI KYOUKA?!
ARE YOU SOME SORT OF ANGEL? A MONSTER?!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

A BUNCH OF PUNKS.
THAT YOU'RE JUST...
WHAT...IS THIS!!
POWER...

KUKU! KUKUKU KU!
...
KUKUKU...

WHY DO YOU THINK... THAT WE WERE AIMING FOR YOU, IGARASHI?
...!?
YOU'RE SO NAIVE. . YOU'RE ALL SO NAIVE...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SEE THROUGH ANYTHING?
YOU REALLY THINK THE WORLD WORKS EXACTLY HOW YOU THINK IT DOES, DON'T YOU?

BLOWING UP ALL OF THE DEVELOPMENT DATA
WAIT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? WE'RE JUST THE BAIT.
OUR JOB WAS JUST TO HOLD YOU UP HERE.
TAURUS'S TRUE OBJECTIVE IS...
THAT YOU THOUGHT NO ONE KNEW ABOUT, TO SMITHEREENS!!!
KYOUYA?!

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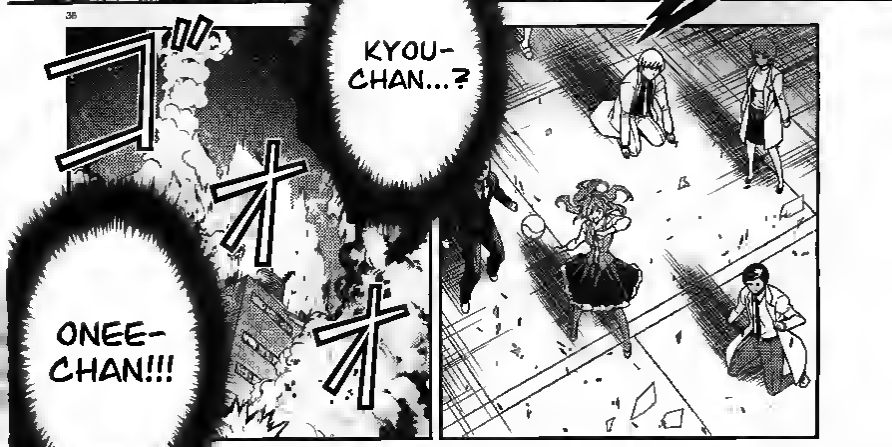
KYOU-CHAN...?
ONEE-CHAN!!!

KYOUYAAAAA!!!
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ハチ
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ハチ
ゴロ
ARE YOU ALIVE? ANSWER ME!
KYOUYA...
KYOUYA!!!
ハチッ
ハチッ
ハチッ
ハチ
ハチ

MIZUHO?!
バラ
バラ
KYOU...
KA...

ピタッ
MIZUHO!
KYOUYA!!!
BUT...
YOUR
BROTHER...
YOU'RE OK,
RIGHT?!
I... DON'T
THINK HE'S
GOING TO
MAKE IT.
LOOKS
LIKE I'M
ALIVE...
SOMEHOW...

KYO...?!
KYOUYA!!!
HE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE ANY HELP ARRIVES.
KYO...
AT THIS RATE...

KYOUYA!! PLEASE, HANG ON! THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT? YOU CAN'T BE DYING!
CALM DOWN! AND DON'T SHAKE HIM!
THIS IS... THIS IS A DREAM, RIGHT? THIS CAN'T BE REAL...!
I MEAN... YOU WERE ALIVE, JUST A SECOND AGO!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DIE, KYOUYA?
WHY?!
PLEASE, KYOUKA. I'M BEGGING YOU... JUST CALM DOWN...

サイ:テイカー
パチ
AR...
TEMIS?
パチ
HEY, WAIT! KYOUKA?!

THAT'S THE MASS-PRODUCED MAGICAL VESSEL! WE HAVEN'T EVEN PROPERLY TESTED IT YET!
IT'S NOT A SAI— IT'S A MAGICAL VESSEL!
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT SORT OF SIDE EFFECTS THERE WILL BE! AND BESIDES... IF HE FORMS A CONTRACT, HE WON'T BE HUMAN ANYMORE!
IT'S NOT LIKE SOMEONE BECOMING A SAI TAKER!
I GUESS...
YOU DON'T THINK OF ORIGINALS AS HUMANS, EITHER.
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
NO... I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU MEANT. AND I DON'T CARE IF IT TURNS HIM INTO A MONSTER.
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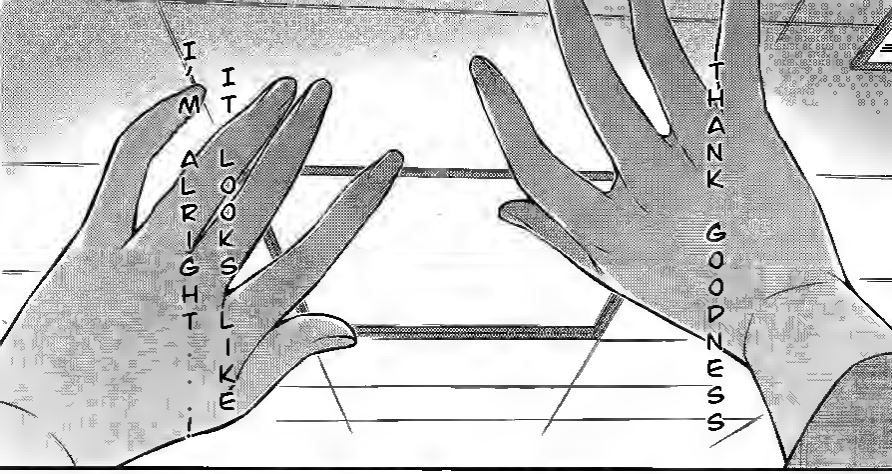
ハチ

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW,
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY TO SAVE KYOUYA'S LIFE?!
ぶる
ANSWER ME, MIZUHO!

はあっ
44
THAT'S— THAT'S RIGHT... I REMEMBER...
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION, AND I...
WHERE...
WHERE AM I?

LIVE... KYOUYA...


I'M ALRIGHT...
IT LOOKS LIKE
THANK GOODNESS

EVERYTHING ELSE...
FEELS FINE TOO.
BUT THIS FEELS LIKE A MIRACLE... I CAN'T BELIEVE I SURVIVED THAT EXPLOSION...

WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT THE FUCK?!!!!
えっ
えっ
ええ

WHAT THE... ONEE-CHAN, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS KYOUYA..?
YU-YUUMA-NEE-SAN?!
…!?
BOO...
ぽー
BOOBS?! WHAT THE HELL? WHY DO YOU HAVE BOOBS?!
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW!
THAT GIRL IS... KYOU-CHAN...
HE FORMED A CONTRACT WITH ARTEMIS, AND...
?
BECAME AN ORIGINAL TAKER.

I... AM...
AN ORIGINAL?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE!!
えぇぇぇ!?
WHAT? WHY?!
WELL- WELL YOU SEE, AFTER THE EXPLOSION.. YOU WERE ABOUT TO DIE, AND, WELL...
A NORMAL HUMAN WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH REGENERATIVE POWER TO OVERCOME THOSE WOUNDS, SO...
THAT'S WHY I...
HAD YOU FORM A CONTRACT WITH A MASS-PRODUCED MAGICAL VESSEL L TAKER.
THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD SURVIVE WAS AS AN ORGINAL TAKER.

THESE MASS-PRODUCED TYPES WILL FORM A CONTRACT WITH ANYONE. BUT IN EXCHANGE... WELL...
YOU TOLD US YOURSELF, NEE-SAN: A MAGICAL VESSEL ITSELF CHOOSES WHO IT WILL CONTRACT WITH.
BUT... BUT THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE...!
THERE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SOME SIDE EFFECTS...
...?!
THIS IS PROBABLY THE WORK OF THE SKILL THAT LETS THE VESSEL FORCEFULLY CHANGE ITS USER INTO A DIFFERENT LIFE FORM...
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL MAGICAL VESSEL WE BASED IT ON CONTRACTED WITH A WOMAN.
SO—SO THAT MEANS THAT I...?!
TELL ME! AM I RIGHT? I AM, AREN'T I?!
IS THIS BECAUSE I MADE A CONTRACT WITH A MAGICAL VESSEL?!
BINGO!
.....
SIDE—SIDE EFFECTS? DO YOU MEAN ME BECOMING LIKE THIS?!
51

YUUMA IN THE LAST PANEL IS SAYING "KUOH... BLOOD... BLOOD IS RUSHING TO MY HEAD..."

THAT I'M STUCK LIKE THIS FOREVER?!
JUST TRY TO THINK OF IT AS A TEMPORARY COUNTER-MEASURE.
WE'LL TRY TO FIND A WAY TO FIX THINGS AS FAST AS WE CAN. AND MOREOVER, IF YOU TAKE OFF THE MAGICAL VESSEL, WE'VE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT YOU'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL.
!?
THAT'S- THAT'S GREAT! SO I CAN GO BACK TO BEING A MAN!
SO, WHERE IS THE MAGICAL VESSEL ITSELF?
IT USUALLY TAKES THE FORM OF A HAIRBAND.
AH, YOU MEAN THIS?
SO, LET'S GET THIS OFF YOU ALREADY!
KYAHHHH!
IT REALLY WORKED!
I'M BACK TO NORMAL!
HURRY UP AND PUT THAT THING BACK ON HIM!

HIS LIFE! HIS LIFE IS GOING DOWN!
HUH? WHAT?
YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU? NORMALLY, THE COUNTER ONLY GOES DOWN BY ONE EACH DAY, BUT WHEN YOU BECOME A MAN, IT GOES DOWN DOZENS OF TIMES FASTER!
IF IT HITS ZERO, YOU'LL DIE! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO ORIGINALS! SO MAKE SURE TO NEVER TAKE IT OFF EVER AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! JUST PUT IT BACK ON ALREADY!

.....
WHAT... WHAT THE HELL?
DOES THIS MEAN... THAT

THAT HE HAS TO LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE WITH THESE THINGS ON HIS CHEST?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, RIGHT?!
.....
YOU BETTER DO SOMETHING RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?!
I KNOW YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING, MIZUHO.
RIGHT?!